

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

UNCLAS STATE 204486

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: OGEN, MX

SUBJECT: OPRED - PROPOSED STAFF ADDITIONS TO US-MEXICAN
SCREWWORM ERADICATION PROGRAM

REF: STATE 044064 OF MARCH 9, 1973 AND SUBSEQUENT

1. AFTER A RECENT EVALUATION OF SPECIAL PERSONNEL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE US-MEXICAN SCREWWORM ERADICATION PROGRAM, DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE/ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE (APHIS) HAS CONCLUDED THAT THERE IS AN URGENT NEED TO ADD FOUR US POSITIONS TO THE STAFFING OF THE PROGRAM. THE POSITIONS WILL BE FOR A REFRIGERATION AND AIR-CONDITIONING MECHANIC, A GENERAL MACHINIST, A WELDER, AND A METHODS DEVELOPMENT TECHNICIAN. ACCORDING TO APHIS, EACH POSITION REQUIRES AN EXPERIENCED WORKING LEADER WHO POSSESSES KNOWLEDGE OF THE UNIQUE REQUIREMENTS OF THE ERADICATION PROGRAM. PERSONS SELECTED FOR THESE POSITIONS WILL CONDUCT ON-THE-JOB TRAINING FOR MEXICAN PERSONNEL IN THEIR RESPECTIVE FIELDS. THESE POSITIONS WERE NOT INCLUDED
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IN EARLIER REQUESTS BECAUSE IT WAS BELIEVED THAT SUCH SKILLS WERE AVAILABLE IN MEXICO. SUBSEQUENT EXPERIENCE HAS

MORE CLEARLY DEFINED THE UNIQUE CHARACTER OF THESE POSITIONS AND DEMONSTRATED THAT LOCAL RECRUITMENT WOULD NOT PRODUCE QUALIFIED CANDIDATES. APHIS REPORTS PROBLEMS ARE

ALREADY BEING ENCOUNTERED WHICH COULD BE AVOIDED OR RESOLVED QUICKLY BY PERSONS POSSESSING THE SKILL, KNOWLEDGE, AND EXPERIENCE SOUGHT IN THE FOUR REQUESTED POSITIONS.

2. IN ADDITION TO THESE FOUR POSITIONS FOR FIELD OPERATIONS, APHIS ALSO WISHES TO ESTABLISH A POSITION FOR A CHIEF STAFF ENTOMOLOGIST IN MEXICO CITY. THIS POSITION WAS INADVERTENTLY OMITTED FROM THE ORIGINAL LIST OF POSITIONS REQUESTED FOR THE SCREWWORM PROJECT IN MARCH 1973 AND WAS NOT INCLUDED IN THE NUMBER OF POSITIONS APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE FOR FY 1974. APHIS HOPES TO BE ABLE TO FILL THIS POSITION SOON.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF OF MISSION ON THESE PROPOSED ADDITIONS TO THE SCREWWORM PROJECT STAFFING. KISSINGER

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